

The Region III Report

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III Information Source

Philadelphia, PA, May/June 2003

Recovery Branch wins silver medal

Mitigation Specialist also honored

Federal agencies were recognized on May 8 for their outstanding work in developing innovative business practices through the use of technology, cost-cutting measures and customer service. Among the many award winners was Region III's Recovery Branch who received the 2003 silver medal for "Most Improved Federal Image."



Jack Schuback accepts the FEB Award on behalf of the Recovery Branch.

Jack Schuback, Individual Assistance Branch Chief, accepted the award on behalf of the Recovery Branch, a team of 10 that governs the individual and public assistance programs.

"My staff often works and travels long hours away from home to meet the needs of local communities impacted by disasters," said Tom Majusiak, Response and Recovery Director. "It's good to see that others are as impressed with their hard work as I am."

The Recovery Branch was recognized for its

teamwork and synergy in providing disaster relief and emergency preparedness services to impacted families and public safety organizations including first responders. While working around the clock in 2002 to handle massive floods in Virginia and a F-4 tornado in Maryland, the team also volunteered to help in the administration of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

See Medal page 4

Wilmington South Census Tracts

HAZUS Default
Soil Classification



DGS Updated
Soil Classification



By Todd Keyser, 2003

Soil classification maps before and after FEMA funded the Delaware Geological Survey study.

Delaware earthquakes – what gives?

Hear the word "earthquake," and California might come to mind, but Delaware? Nevertheless, FEMA, state and other federal officials have learned that Delaware is more vulnerable to earthquakes than what might be imagined.

Following a 1997 analysis of seismic activity in the Mid-Atlantic states, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) raised the Delaware's earthquake risk from low to moderate. This ranking does not mean Delaware overshadows the San Andreas Fault, but it does warrant preventive measures to mitigate damage and physical injury.

The FEMA Region III Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) branch works with the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA), Delaware Geological Survey (DGS) and the USGS to prepare for potential earthquakes.

See DE quakes page 4

In Brief...

- ▶ **RISC Officials Convene in Hyattsville:** The Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) meeting was held May 6-7 at the Initial Operating Facility (IOF) in Hyattsville, Md. The major focus of the meeting was the emergency response plan for the National Capital Region (NCR). Region III personnel stressed the importance of federal, state and local coordination. Other topics included the need for Emergency Support Function (ESF) cooperation as well as deployment and operational issues. The new IOF will function as the disaster field office during a catastrophic event. Over the coming months, the NCR team will fully develop its site-specific operational plan to ensure a coordinated and effective response.
- ▶ **DHS Town Hall and Focus Group Meeting:** Region III employees Steve Adukaitis, Frank DeGregory and Barbara Wolf attended the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Human Resource Systems Town Hall Meeting in Norfolk, Va., on June 10. The meeting served to solicit feedback on current personnel systems to aid in the development of the new DHS human resource system.
- ▶ **Internet NFIP Applications:** Communities now can go on line to obtain forms to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The forms are on the FEMA website at www.fema.gov/nfip/forms.htm. Once there, click on "Docnet, FEMA forms" at the top of the listing. Type in "FEMA" for both the ID and the password. Print form 81-64.
- ▶ **Virginia Disaster Field Office Closes:** The DFO in Lynchburg, Va. closed on May 30. Federal and State grants, totaling more than \$3.8 million, were allocated to help Virginians recover from the mid-February severe storms, flooding and heavy snow. Individual aid totaled \$2,345,379 for disaster housing assistance and other needs. Public Assistance grants to state and local governments totaled \$1,980,704. This amount is expected to increase as Public Assistance applications continue to be reviewed.
- ▶ **West Virginia Disaster Field Office Closes:** The DFO in Charleston, West Va. closed on June 13. More than \$11 million will reimburse Public Assistance costs and provide Individual Assistance for household needs. A total of \$4,904,558 was approved for the Individuals and Households Program while \$6,519,037 was obligated to repair or replace disaster-damaged public facilities.
 Since the floods of 2001 and 2002, nearly \$16 million has flowed into West Virginia communities as a part of a state and federal mitigation program. Under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), FEMA and the West Virginia Office of Emergency Services (WVOES) have acquired 329 properties in flood prone areas.



RISC Meeting: Tom Davies, Federal Coordinating Officer, answers a question posed by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management Regional Coordinator, Cindi Causey (in black).

Fast Facts

Did you know there are certain procedures to follow when registering for classes at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, MD? Here are a few tips to make the registration process much smoother for you.

- If your training is being funded by EMI, your travel authorization must be faxed to Eileen Harrison by 5 p.m. (EST) on the Wednesday preceding the start of your course.
- In order to accommodate new Emmitsburg security requirements, student substitutions must be made by the Monday one week prior to the course start date.
- A cancellation, with a valid reason, must be sent to admissions by your supervisor via the regional training manager. If not, students will not be admitted to EMI courses for two years.
- All students must present travel authorizations upon arrival; otherwise, they will not be able to register for housing.
- All stipends are based on non-refundable tickets only.

Region III hosts National Security Regional COOP Conference

The National Security Division of FEMA Headquarters partnered with Region III's National Preparedness Division May 20-22 for the first of two Regional Continuity of Operations (COOP) Conferences for the year. This conference brought together representatives from the Headquarters Office of National Security and all the regional COOP coordinators.



COOP Conference Executives (from left): Richard Elgin, Readiness Division Director, Office of National Security Coordination; National Security Director Reynold Hoover; and Lon Biasco, Region 10 Program Coordinator National and Preparedness Branch Chief.

To kickoff the opening day's activities, Reynold Hoover, the new National Security Coordination Director, briefed the audience on COOP responsibilities from a headquarters perspective, giving insight into the Department of Homeland Security's expectations.

"As we move further into this Homeland Security environment, continuity of operations planning needs to be a priority across all government agencies," said Robert Welch, Director of Region III's National Preparedness Division.

Key topics discussed over the three days include FEMA's role as executive agent for COOP; FEMA's outreach efforts to state and local governments; and the creation of a FEMA COOP website. Five initiatives, including Region III's COOP planning questionnaire and the Federal Executive Board COOP workshop survey, were also presented. The conference ended with a tabletop exercise.

"It was critical that this group come together," said Welch. "This skilled staff is expected to lead this COOP effort, providing a consistent and comprehensive message to all levels of government."

National Preparedness Director announces fire operations grant in Pennsylvania

As part of the first round of grant announcements for the 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Program, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III presented a symbolic check of \$103,680 to the Pioneer Fire Company on June 12 in Jenkintown, Pa. The Pioneer Fire Company received one of the first 219 grants made available through the program.

Robert Welch, National Preparedness (NP) Director for Region III, joined fire and borough officials as well as representatives from local congressional offices at the



NP Director Robert Welch with representatives from the Pioneer Fire Company and the congressional and state offices.

firehouse to make the presentation.

"These grants place crucial resources and tools into the hands of first responders to better secure communities," said Welch.

The grant will be used to purchase new portable digital hand-held radios. The new radios will be



Pioneer Fire Company officials, Gerald West and Gary Bachman, demonstrate the use of a digital hand-held radio.

divided equally between two fire companies, providing an enhanced communication system throughout Montgomery County. The grant will assist the firefighters in responding to over 240 calls in Jenkintown and surrounding areas. In the case of emergencies, the radio system will allow them to communicate with each other, the incident command and nearby fire companies.

FEMA and the USFA expect to announce grants weekly, and will obligate more than 7,000 grants as part of this year's funding by September 2004. The total of all awards, when completed, will represent a \$750 million investment to enhance fire and EMS service delivery nationwide.

On the move

Personnel changes...



Dave Parks

Dave Parks, former Emergency Management Program Specialist, became the region's Response Operations Branch Chief on June 1.



John Benn

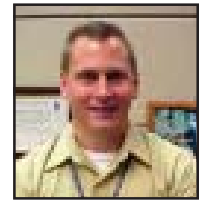
FIM Emergency Management Program Specialist, John Benn, retired on May 30 after 30 years of service. During his tenure with FEMA, he was instrumental in launching the region's *Project Impact* initiative and predisaster mitigation grant program.



Alice Jackson

Former DAE, Alice Jackson, recently accepted a CORE position as a Disaster Recovery and Operations Program Specialist.

Emergency Management Specialist George Smith will be moving to Region IV. He has accepted a position as a senior Individual Assistance officer.



George Smith

Medal (continued from page 1)

In the individual award category, Mitigation Planning Specialist Etta Sims was honored for her diligence and excellence in pursuing the objectives of diversity and EEO. Simms serves as FEMA's representative on the Partners in



Etta Sims

Equality (PIE) Steering Committee.

The Federal Executive Board (FEB) sponsors the annual Excellence in Government Awards Program to highlight the

accomplishments of federal employees in the Philadelphia area. A host of agencies are represented each year, including the Department of Navy, Internal Revenue Service, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Social Security Administration and Environmental Protection Agency.

DE quakes (continued from page 1)

In 1997, FEMA began funding development of the Hazards U.S. (HAZUS) software. The National Institute of Building Sciences created this GIS-based, loss-estimation methodology. The software's database contains a wealth of information on buildings of all types and infrastructure (roads, bridges and the like). The database also includes demographics, broken down by ethnicity, age, income and ownership. HAZUS applies this information, in conjunction with soil quality data, to predict damage to essential facilities such as hospitals and bridges. It also quantifies the economic impact and estimates the requirements for shelters and medical aid.

In 2002, Region III awarded DEMA an Emergency Management Planning and Assistance grant. The grant funded DGS work to obtain accurate Delaware soil quality data. These "values" are important because some soil types amplify ground motion caused by an earthquake. DGS discovered that soils in Delaware varied significantly from the default values used in the past. Soil depth also greatly affects earthquake impact. DGS has documented the soil-

depth variation by creating a contour map of bedrock elevation. Running an earthquake scenario with this more precise information paints a far different picture of the final outcome.

Later this year, FEMA will introduce HAZUS Multi-Hazard (HAZUS-MH). This new software can evaluate the potential risk of not only earthquakes, but also floods and hurricane winds. DGS plans to continue work with HAZUS-MH this year, focusing on the flood and wind modules.

To encourage education and communication regarding HAZUS, FEMA supports the establishment of the Mid-Atlantic HAZUS User Group (HUG). HUGs have been expanding nation-wide, creating partnerships between the public and private sectors. These groups provide opportunities to develop successful projects through collaboration, combining resources and sharing information and tips on software usage. Members of the group include representatives of federal, state and local governments, utilities, non-profits organizations and universities. For those interested, email Ken.Wallace@fema.gov.

The Region III Report is a vehicle for FEMA to share information with its federal, state and local partners and full-time staff and reservists. Please send any additional email addresses or changes to melissa.janssen@fema.gov. Send suggestions and story ideas to Niki Edwards at r3report@fema.gov.